

ASLCS

Professional Development Seminar Sacramento California 2013

Overview

36 states were represented this year at the Professional Development Seminar for the American Society on Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS). I received a warm welcome from everyone as they were glad to see representation from Montana! Through involvement in seminars break-out sessions, committee meetings and networking with various clerks from across the Country; I see this organization as a vital resource in constantly improving and maintaining excellence in the professional institution of the Montana Legislature.

Professionalism in the Chief Clerk's Office

The clerks in the Society (ASLCS) do not talk politics. We are a professional group executing democracy through smooth accuracy. The Clerk's office must be operated with experience and capable of providing the institutional knowledge necessary to do the job and do it well. With the current term limits, it is vital for the Clerk to be fully knowledgeable with House Rules and Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. It is important to provide a stabilized base for new members to become acclimated and understand the process. The Clerk is the available resource for the Speaker of the House as well as the Chair of the Day regarding rules and procedure during daily sessions. The Clerk must ensure continuation and preservation of the distinguished traditions and customs of the House Chamber. Additionally, managing a staff that upholds the utmost respect of the decorum of the House of Representatives. Finally, the clerks in this American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries define the process - not the politics, and work to provide a stabilized professional institution for the State Legislatures.

New Ideas

- Develop a smooth process for floor amendments to be instantly accessible to members electronically.
- Match freshmen legislators with experienced legislators.
- Expand orientation to cover rules extensively, floor etiquette, etc.
- Expand chair of day training with an emphasis on rules.
- Communicate with Speaker regarding social media on the Floor.
- Research history, customs, and previous rulings from past sessions.
- Include former speakers in new member orientation, training and exposure.
- Compile an explanation manual to aide in various floor motions etc.
- Take advantage of 'list serve' in communicating ideas and feedback with other house clerks.
- Serve on the "Inside the Legislative Process Committee" and audit "Mason's Committee."

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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Exhibit 9